



UCI Countdown



162

*Days remaining
until Lajes Field's
Unit Compliance
Inspection*

Tip of the Week

Most of us know, when you hear unit compliance inspection, we're talking about documents associated with our job. We must clearly understand what is required of us. Processes within each unit are governed by some type of directive(s) whether it is an AFI, LFI or some other special directive. We must be able to clearly show through documentation that we are executing and accomplishing our mission based on these established directives.

-Master Sgt. Edgar Robertson

Daylight Saving Time



The European Union turns clocks ahead at midnight Saturday. People should turn their clocks ahead 1 hour, at which point it will be 1 a.m. Sunday.



Planting Trees

Elementary students celebrate Arbor Day

By Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud
65th ABW Public Affairs

Students from Lajes Elementary School celebrated Arbor Day Tuesday.

The students planted 20 trees and bushes purchased by the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight.

Arbor Day originally began in the 1800s in Nebraska to add more trees to the once almost treeless state. During the 1870s, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day, and the tradition began in schools nationwide in 1882.

Lajes 4th and 5th grade students spent time digging and planting behind the youth center and in the base housing area.

Vitor Berbereia, Natural Resources Program manager, teamed up with the school to make this happen.

Col. JL Briggs, 65th Air Base Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Douglas McIntyre, 65th ABW command chief, planted the first tree with help from the students.

The students then separated into teams and planted the additional trees and bushes.



Top: Lajes Elementary students plant a tree Tuesday in celebration of Arbor Day. Above: Lajes Elementary Girls "dig" planting a bush. (Photos by Senior Airman Taylor Marr)

Sr. Berbereia stresses the importance of teaching children about trees.

"It (Arbor Day) helps both adults and children learn about trees, he said. "The children are the future. Taking the time to teach them helps influence them.

"It is important that they understand the value of trees and all the functions trees have," explained Sr. Berbereia, "including oxygen, shade, erosion control and material."





Key to success: Tenacity helps us meet any challenge

Maj. Brad Coley

65th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander

The list of traits that prove invaluable to success in today's Air Force is almost endless. Leadership, followership, dedication and integrity are at the top of everyone's list of requirements. This article could be about any of those honorable traits.

However, I'd like to focus on an often less talked about key to success, which is tenacity. Tenacity is a force multiplier and is often what it takes to successfully confront adversity. It is because of this that it is also a cornerstone of an Airman's warrior ethos.

Tenacity is commonly known as persistence in maintaining, adhering to, or seeking something valued or desired. That doesn't seem to capture all the aspects of the larger meaning of the word. Whatever definition we choose to use, make no mistake, in order to meet the Air Force's priorities; we all must demonstrate a fair amount of drive, determination and tenacity.

Air Force leadership has stated our first priority as winning the Global War on Terror and providing for the strategic defense of our nation now and in the future. This noble endeavor will not be quick or easy. It will take diligence, dedication and intense effort to succeed. A focus on tenacity will allow us to continue to keep our goals in the forefront of our mind when we grow weary and tired.

Our leadership acknowledges this by making the development of our Airmen the second Air Force priority. Warrior ethos isn't new to our language, but it is taking a more center stage position in our concept of what it means to be an Airmen in today's Air Force. One look at the Airmen's Creed will show the importance of tenacity. Nothing exemplifies tenacity like the closing of the creed, "I will never leave an Airman behind, I will never falter, and I will not fail." Words don't always do justice to charter traits or emotions. Tenacity can be one of those words that can be hard to pin down but you know it when you hear it.

The citation that accompanied Tech. Sgt. Forrest Vosler's Medal of Honor provides an excellent example of tenacity. In part it reads,

"Pieces of metal lodged in both eyes, impairing his vision to such an extent that he could only distinguish blurred shapes. Displaying remarkable tenacity and courage, he kept firing his guns and



Courtesy of Home of Heroes

declined to take first-aid. The radio had been rendered inoperative during the battle and when the pilot announced that he would have to ditch, although unable to see and working entirely by touch, Sergeant Vosler finally got the set operating and sent out a distress signals despite several lapses into unconsciousness. When the ship ditched, Sergeant Vosler managed to get out on the wing by himself and hold the wounded tail gunner from falling off until the other crew members could help him into the dinghy."

Most of us will never have to face the trials that Sergeant Vosler did in World War II. However, we all will face challenges in our careers and lives. It is how we face the day-to-day challenges that will help determine how we will react when we face more difficult situations down the road. Much like maintaining composure under pressure or running a faster 1.5-mile run, developing tenacity is a process of pushing the limits of comfort and adapting our minds and bodies. Short term goals and tests result in long term gains. None of us can wake up one day and become tenacious; we have to weave it in to every aspect of our lives.

Tenacity is the difference maker. It doesn't have to be an extreme example like the case with Sergeant Vosler. From the dogged devotion to keeping our training records current to scrubbing and rescrubbing our UCI checklists, if we can draw on inner tenacity to stay persistent in the pursuit of our goals no matter how tired we become, we can meet any challenge. Budgets and manpower will always be a struggle but leaders at all levels must still find a way to meet our mission. From the Chief of Staff to the first line supervisor, if we tap into our inner strength we are better able exhibit the core value of excellence in all we do.

535-4240

actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Line is your link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution. Your chain of command should always be your first option for praise or problems — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Line at 535-4240 or



Col. JL Briggs

actionline@lajes.af.mil.

Col. JL Briggs

Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads. The Public Affairs Office (Unit 7710, APO, AE 09720) is located in Bldg. T-100, Room 240.

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Commissioning Opportunities:

OTS for people with or close to bachelor's degree

By Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud
65th ABW Public Affairs

This article about commissioning through Officer Training School, is the third article in a series on commissioning opportunities. An article on the LEAD program was published Jan. 25 and an article on SOAR, AECP and ASCP programs was published in the Feb. 22 edition.

Enlisted members who already have a bachelor's degree, or are within 270 days of completing their degree are eligible to apply for commissioning through Officer Training School.

Unlike several other commissioning programs in which enlisted personnel are awarded ROTC Scholarships to attend a college or university to complete their degree, OTS is for those who may be further along in their education.

"Once the student is within a year of a bachelor's degree, OTS is the option as the other programs are scholarship programs which do not allow a second bachelor's degree," explained Maria Tristao-Rocha, base education counselor.

In addition to a degree, applicants are required to have a minimum of a 2.5 Grade Point Average to apply for a rated board and a 3.0 GPA for a non-rated, non technical panel. There are two program categories for Officer Training School. The first is rated which includes pilot, navigator and air battle management subprograms. Non-rated consists of technical and non-technical positions.

There are specific age requirements for each program. Rated applicants must be less than 28 by the board-convening date. The only exception will be considered for individuals who can complete the board process and enter basic officer training by one month after their 29th birthday. Non-rated applicants will be considered if they are under 33 by the board-convening date. Non-rated applicants must be selected, graduate from BOT and receive their commission by age 35.

Technical applicants under the non-rated board must have degrees in engi-

neering, meteorology, atmosphere science, computer engineering technology, electrical engineering technology, electronic engineering technology, math, physics, chemistry or architecture.

Additionally, to qualify, applicants are required to take the Air Force Officer Qualification Test and meet the minimum scores for the area they are applying for. "Studying for the AFOQT is very important as the test scores are a major rating factor," stressed Mrs. Tristao-Rocha.

"A good candidate is one who has a good GPA, good AFOQT scores and clean military performance record," she added.

Each applicant submits an AF Form 56, *Application & Evaluation for Training Leading to a Commission in the United States Air Force*. Packages also include transcripts from schools attended, an AF Form 422, *Physical Profile Serial Report*, an applicant profile, similar to a resume, and one letter of recommendation.

"The minute someone becomes interested in commissioning, they should make their goal known to their commander," Mrs. Tristao-Rocha stressed. "As with any other commissioning program, commander support is a must. In addition to needing a commander's recommendation, candidates can benefit from any mentoring and coaching their commanders can provide. Commanders are in a position to provide support and offer candidates exposure that will greatly enhance the quality of their package."

Officers commissioned through OTS make up less than 20 percent of the officer corps. A quality package could make the difference between being selected for commission.

"Although the application process requires a great deal of attention to detail and hard work, its accuracy, thoroughness, and appearance are the first impression the applicant makes as an officer candidate," said Mrs. Tristao-Rocha. "In my opinion, potential candidates should allow ample time to become familiar with the application process as well as to assemble the application. The more familiar the applicant is with the process, the

less intimidating and easier it becomes. The candidate's written statement also requires a lot of thought, good writing, insight and content. Students must make a compelling argument as to why they feel they would make a good officer as well as be able to put into words how they feel they can impact the Air Force in a positive way should they be given the opportunity to serve as an officer."

Tech. Sgt. Ryan Edwards, 65th Operations Support Squadron, echoed that. "Start early," he suggested, because the application process can be tedious and time consuming.

Sergeant Edwards applied for the 08OT02 board for non-rated applicants. He said the decision to apply was an easy one. "I wanted to make a larger difference while serving my country and thought that I had limited opportunity as an enlisted member and less limited as an officer," he explained. "Although," he added, "I wish I had made it (the decision) much earlier."

Sergeant Edwards said he originally looked at the Airman Education and Commissioning Program for attaining a engineering degree, but he was limited in classes he could take where he was assigned, and as time progressed and he got older, the window of opportunity slipped away.

"I believe that young Air Force members should be briefed on the various commissioning programs early on in their careers, and be provided with advice that can later on prove to be essential to a competitive package," Mrs. Tristao-Rocha said. "The advice could be anything from keeping up GPA, importance of job performance, striving for excellence in both their professional/military as well as personal lives."

The education center sponsors a monthly briefing on commissioning programs. The next briefing is at 9 a.m. Apr. 8. To sign up, call 535-5291.

For more information on OTS, visit <http://www.afoats.af.mil/OTS/BOT/> or <http://afrecruiting.com/rsoc/>. The next OTS board is a rated board. The deadline for applications is September.





Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
11 a.m. Fried Shrimp Special, Oceanview 4 p.m. All you can eat, Pizza & Movie, LYP 5 p.m. Teen Money Matters, LYP 5:30 p.m. Build Your Own Pasta meal, TORC 7 p.m. The Eye (PG-13) 7:30 p.m. Cosmic Bowling 10 p.m. Untraceable (R)	10 a.m. Post Office closed today 11 a.m. Rotisserie Chicken special, \$6.95, Oceanview 7 p.m. Over Her Dead Body (PG-13) 7 p.m. Teen Night Out, LYP 10 p.m. Untraceable (R) Midnight Turn clocks forward 1 hour	9 a.m. Evangelical Service 10:30 a.m. Mass Noon , Post office reopens in Bldg. T-630. Noon , Praise Service 2 p.m. Boys & Girls Club Block Party, LYP 2 p.m. Over Her Dead Body (PG-13) 7 p.m. Untraceable (R)	6:30 a.m. Oceanview open for breakfast 10 a.m. Thrift store open 10 a.m. Library reopens, Ribbon cutting ceremony 11 a.m. Lajes Park Grand Opening celebration, Bowling Alley 5:20 p.m. Body Sculpting, CFC 6 p.m. Spin Class, CFC	11 a.m. Pizza special w/ 4 drinks, \$11.75, Oceanview 1 to 4:30 p.m. Seamstress available, CAC 5:30 p.m. Mongolian BBQ, TORC 6 p.m. AWANA, chapel 5 p.m. Dead-line for baseball sign ups for children 5 to 18, and teen talent contest, LYP	9 a.m. Mandatory Pre-Separation Counseling, A&FRC 10 a.m. Auto Hobby shop open today until 9:30 p.m. 5 p.m. Family Night Bowling 5 p.m. Teen Career Launch, LYP 6 p.m. \$.35 wings at the TORC	9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers meeting, chapel 10 a.m. Home Buying Seminar, A&FRC 1 p.m. MSS closed for official function 4 p.m. Wing Recognition Ceremony, TORC 7 p.m. Untraceable (R) 8 p.m. Ladies Night, TORC

Project Cheer Contests

Enter to win \$3,000 from USAA or a HDTV from Exchange New Car Sales: Entry Restrictions and eligibility requirements: contest is open only to DoD ID card holders assigned to USAF bases, who are 18-years or older. The drawing will take place at the close of business Apr. 1. Entry form deadline is midnight CET Mar. 31. For more details and entry forms, visit: www.projectcheer.org. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

Lajes E/H School

Elementary Yearbooks: Lajes Elementary School Yearbook Staff would like to honor military parents in this year's publication. Parents of an elementary grade child (preschool through fifth grade), are asked to come to Rm. 131 (Ms. Ching's room) from 4 to 6:30 p.m. today. Parents are requested to wear the uniform of the day. POC: Ms. Ching, 535-4151.

School Registration: Pre-registration at Lajes E/H School will take place during Spring Break, from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. Apr. 7-11 in the main office. This is an annual requirement by DoD Regulation to determine continued eligibility for school enrollment. Accurate and complete school enrollments assist in projecting appropriate resources to support the coming school year. It is a critical activity for schools since funding and staffing authorizations are based on enrollment and enrollment projections.

Kindergarten Registration: Children who turn 5 by Oct. 31, are eligible to register for 2008-2009 Kindergarten. POC: Cidalia Dias, 535-3357.

School Visitors: Visitors are required to get a pass at the office when they come to the building.

Boys & Girls Club Week

National Boys & Girls Club Week: Begins Sunday through Apr. 5. 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Block Party at the Youth Center – Come out and experience the 5 core areas of the Boys & Girls Clubs programs with activities available within: The Arts, Career and Education, Character and Leadership, Sports, Recreation and Fitness, and Health and Life Skills.

The following Open Recreation Activities are available from 2:30 to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday for ages 5-18 (children under the age of 8 are required to be accompanied by a parent or sibling of 16 yrs of age or older at all times. **Monday**, Bluest Member Contest – Club members have to make outfits out of blue construction and tissue paper; Silly Photo Day – crazy hats and clothing provided; **Tuesday**, Rhyme the Blues away – Poetry writing **Wednesday**, Frozen T-Shirts Game, Club T-Shirt Design Contest, **Thursday**, Design your own Club Membership Card – create a new membership card for the program; **Apr. 4**, Design a new Club Banner; **Apr. 5**, Teen/Parent Town Hall Meeting. POC: Kristi Kennel, 535-3273.

LYP 535-3273

LYP Spring Camp, Castles, Spells, & Wishing Wells: Apr. 4-11. Kindergarten to 12 years of age. Children may attend the week camp or may register for individual days.

USAFE 2008 Youth/Teen Talent Contest: 6-18 years old for talent contest Apr. 7-11. Deadline to sign up is Tuesday. Workshops will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Apr. 8-10. Rehearsal will be 1 to 4 p.m. Apr. 11. Final Show will be 3 p.m. Apr. 12. Volunteers are needed to conduct workshops. For details, call Melinda Forgit, 535-3273.

A&FRC Classes 535-4138

Daily Fresh Breath: Noon to 12:15 p.m. Breathing, Stretching and Guided Imagery.

Stress Management: 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays. Power Tools for excellence.

Effective Communication: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Thursdays.

Budgeting Workshop: 9 a.m. Apr. 8.

Beginner Outlook: 10:30 a.m. Apr. 10.

Smooth Move: 2 p.m. Apr. 14.

Fitness Center 535-6126

2008 U.S. Forces-Europe Men's and Women's PowerLifting Championship: Apr. 19, Bamberg, Germany. Free entry. PTDY is authorized, with commanders concurrence for USAF participants. Applications due Apr. 12. For details, contact Ernest Johnson at DSN 469-9086.

Classified Ads

E-mail classified ads to news@lajes.af.mil by 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to the week you need it published. Notify the Crossroads when items have been sold. Lajes personnel may also post ads at Lajesads.com. This site is not affiliated with the Crossroads.

Briggs and Stratton gasoline powered generator with (4) 120V outlets and one 240 volt outlets. Used only once. 2 years old in perfect condition. PCS soon so must sell. 11 hour run time. Operation manual included. Call 295-549-228 or email h82bpqr_2000@yahoo.com

For Sale: 1994 Ford Ranger Truck Extended Cab XLT Series New Brakes/Rotors Metal Tool Box included 110k Miles, Great Cond. Asking \$2,500 OBO Call Mike @ 964224165

For Sale: 1996 Seat Ibiza 2 door, white, inspection good until May 2008, asking 1600 euros. Call George at 919-807-736.

Vacation Housing: Retired USAF spouse/mother, 52, and two daughters, 27 and 17, seeking housing arrangements for 5 to 10 days early August 2008. Praia or Lajes, maybe during Praia-Fest? I want to show my older daughter where she was born. Perhaps we could housesit/petsit while you vacation back in the states. Please e-mail: mstar2@msn.com.